

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

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R 281015Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0226

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10098

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDO-PAK RELATIONS

1. IN GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON OF CURRENT INDO-PAK RELATIONS, MEA JOINT SECRETARY CHIB TOLD A/DCM JUL 26 THAT FONSEC KEWAL SINGH HAD CONVEYED ORAL MESSAGE ON INDIAN EMERGENCY TO PAK FON SEC AGHA SHAHI JULY 23 THROUGH VISITING PAKISTAN INDUS VALLEY COMMISSIONER. CHIB SAID KEWAL SINGH HAD ASSURED PAKISTANIS THAT INDIAN EMERGENCY RELATED TO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ONLY AND WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY. SPECIFICALLY, INDIAN INTEREST IN IMPROVING INDO-PAK RELATIONS AND IN MOVING AHEAD ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES REMAINED UNCHANGED.

2. CHIB SAID PAK INDUS VALLEY COMMISSIONER HAD BROUGHT ORAL SUGGESTION FROM SHAHI AT THE END OF JUNE THAT INDIAN AND PAKISTAN FONSECS RENEW THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CIVIL AVIATION PROBLEMS. INDIANS SENT MESSAGE BACK JULY 23 THAT THEY WERE WILLING TO DO SO, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT WISHED TO HAVE INDICATION PRIOR TO FORMALIZING

DATES AS TO WHETHER PAKS HAD ADJUSTED THEIR POSITIONS IN ANY WAY FROM MAY FONSEC MEETING IN NEW DELHI.

3. CHIB SAID INDIANS HOPED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK ON THE SALAL DAM HAD SUCCEEDED IN REASSURING THE PAKISTANI ENGINEERS WHO WERE SHOWN THE DAM SITE, GIVEN A 50-PAGE TECHNICAL STUDY ON THE DAM, AND BEEN GIVEN A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE GEOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF THE DAM SITE WHICH NECESSITATED ITS CONSTRUCTION IN THE WAY PLANNED BY INDIA. THE NEXT MEETING AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL WILL BE IN ISLAMABAD ABOUT AUGUST 16, PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE 90-DAY LIMIT FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BEFORE IT CAN BE RETURNED TO CONSIDERATION AT THE FONSEC LEVEL.

4. ON OTHER FRONTS, CHIB SAID, LITTLE WAS HAPPENING. THE INDIANS HAD HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM PAKISTAN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING RAIL LINKS; PAK DECISIONS ON TRADE FOLLOWING THE PAK TRADE MISSION TO INDIA REMAINED UNKNOWN; THE PAKISTANIS HAD TURNED DOWN PROPOSALS FOR EXCHANGES OF CRICKET TEAMS AGREED UPON AT THE TEAM LEVEL IN LONDON RECENTLY (AS THEY HAD AN EXCHANGE OF URDU POETS PROPOSED BY THE INDIANS EARLY IN THE YEAR OR LATE LAST YEAR).

5. CHIB OFFERED HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT THE GOP WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN OTHER FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS AND APPEARED TO HAVE SET INDO-PAK RELATIONS ON THE BACK BURNER FOR THE NEXT 5-6 MONTHS. IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED ANY PAK CONCERN ABOUT INTERNAL INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS, CHIB SAID THAT HE SAW NONE (OTHER THAN RANDOM OBSERVATIONS IN SOME PAK NEWSPAPERS) AND SAW NO REASON WHY THERE SHOULD BE ANY. IT WAS IN PART TO MAINTAIN A CONTINUING REASSURANCE OF THE GOP ON THIS SUBJECT THAT THE INDIANS HAD CONVEYED THE MESSAGE NOTED IN PARA 1 ABOVE.
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